

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1-7 and ADD new claims 8-13 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A membership management method in a membership management system comprising:

at least one user terminal connected via a network;

a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites; and

a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein when a user makes an application for a registration of membership information to one of the service provision sites by using said user terminal, the ~~application requested~~ one of the service provision sites receiving the application registers at least a part of the membership information into ~~a the~~ database held by the one of the service provision sites, and when ~~this the~~ membership information ~~has not yet been~~ is not registered in a database held by the integrated membership management center, the integrated membership management center ~~also registers this the~~ membership information into the database held by the integrated membership management center.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A membership management system, comprising:

at least one user terminal connected via a network;

a database held by each of a plurality of service provision sites; and

a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein each service provision site comprises:

membership registration guidance display means for requesting a user to register membership information;

means for guiding the user to obtain from ~~a the~~ at least one user terminal the membership information that has been input from the user terminal based on ~~the a~~ guidance of the membership registration guidance display means;

means for requesting the integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

means for obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

means for posting to the at least one user terminal a user ID and a password ~~that have been~~, which are authenticated by the integrated membership management center.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The membership management system according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein the integrated membership management center comprises:

means for searching for a record that coincides with user information when ~~this means has received~~ receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

means for preparing ~~the~~ user ID and ~~the~~ password and adding ~~these~~ the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration-~~requested~~ membership information as a result of the ~~searching~~ search;

means for adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services ~~of from~~ the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration-~~requested~~ membership information as a result of the ~~searching~~ search; and

means for posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The membership management system according to ~~Claim~~ claim 2, wherein the membership registration guidance display means requests ~~a the~~ user to input items of membership information ~~that are necessary~~ for the integrated membership management center even if ~~these pieces~~ the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated membership management center that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites and to at least one user terminal via a network, the integrated membership management center comprising:

searching means searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service

provision site from a user terminal; and

a database for registering the new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from a user terminal when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The integrated membership management center according to Claim claim 5, further comprising:

means for searching for a record that coincides with user information when ~~this means~~ has received receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

means for preparing a user ID and a password and adding ~~these~~ the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration-requested membership information as a result of the searchingsearch;

means for adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services ~~of from~~ the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration-requested membership information as a result of the searchingsearch; and

means for posting the user ID and the password to the service provision site.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A service provision site, comprising:

membership registration guidance display means for requesting a user to register membership information;

means for guiding the user to obtain from a user terminal the membership information that has been input from the user terminal based on the a guidance of the membership registration guidance display means;

means for requesting an integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

means for obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has ~~already been~~ registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

means for posting to the user terminal a user ID and a password ~~that have been~~ authenticated by the integrated membership management center, wherein the membership registration guidance display means requests the user to input items of membership information

that are necessary for the integrated membership management center even if ~~these pieces the~~
input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site.

8. (NEW) A membership management system, comprising:
a user terminal connected via a network;
a database held by each service provision sites; and
a database held by an integrated membership management center, wherein each service
provision site comprises:

a membership registration guidance display requesting a user to register
membership information;

a guiding unit guiding the user to obtain from the user terminal the membership
information that has been input from the user terminal based on a guidance of the membership
registration guidance display;

a first unit requesting the integrated membership management center to register
the membership information;

a second unit obtaining from the integrated membership management center the
information about whether the requested membership information has already been registered in
the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership
management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration;
and

a posting unit posting to the user terminal a user ID and a password, which are
authenticated by the integrated membership management center.

9. (NEW) The membership management system according to claim 8, wherein the
integrated membership management center comprises:

a third unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving
from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

a fourth unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the
password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration
membership information as a result of the search;

a fifth unit adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services
from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested
registration membership information as a result of the search; and

a sixth unit posting the user ID and the password authenticated by the integrated membership management center to the service provision site.

10. (NEW) The membership management system according to claim 8, wherein the membership registration guidance display requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site.

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11. (NEW) An integrated membership management center that is connected to a plurality of service provision sites and to at least one user terminal via a network, the integrated membership management center comprising:

a search unit searching and determining whether a record exists that coincides with new membership information that a user has used when the user has accessed a service provision site from a user terminal; and

a database registering the new membership information when the searching unit determines that the new membership information is not registered in the database.

12. (NEW) The integrated membership management center according to claim 11, further comprising:

a third unit searching for a record that coincides with user information when receiving from a service provision site a request for registering membership information;

a fourth unit preparing the user ID and the password and adding the user ID and the password to a database when there is no record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search;

a fifth unit adding a service qualification to the user to enable the user to receive services from the service provision site when there is a record that coincides with the requested registration membership information as a result of the search; and

a sixth unit posting the user ID and the password to the service provision site.

13. (NEW) A service provision site, comprising:

a membership registration guidance display requesting a user to register membership information;

a guiding unit guiding the user to obtain from a user terminal the membership information

that has been input from the user terminal based on a guidance of the membership registration guidance display;

a first unit requesting an integrated membership management center to register the membership information;

a second unit obtaining from the integrated membership management center the information about whether the requested membership information has been registered in the integrated membership management center or whether the integrated membership management center has registered the requested membership information as new registration; and

a third unit posting to the user terminal a user ID and a password authenticated by the integrated membership management center, wherein the membership registration guidance display requests the user to input items of membership information for the integrated membership management center even if the input items of information are not necessary for the service provision site.